

24. PRESENCE OF COMMON GREEN WHIP SNAKE *AHAETULLA NASUTUS* AT "PHULWARI KI NAL" WILDLIFE SANCTUARY IN RAJASTHAN

On November 4, 1993, while wandering in Dharawan Reserve Forest of "Phulwari Ki Nal" Wildlife Sanctuary in Udaipur District, I bagged a common green whip snake *Ahaetulla nasutus* from a clump of *Dendrocalamus strictus* with the help of labourers working there. The Dharawan forest is a hilly area having luxuriant growth of *Dendrocalamus strictus*, *Wrightia tinctoria*, *Lannea coromandelica*, *Boswellia serrata*, *Butea monosperma*, *Sterculia urens*, *Emblica officinalis*, etc.

Measurements of the snake are : Total length: 1470 mm; Vent to tail-tip length: 535 mm; Weight: 67 gm; Ventrals: 197; Subcaudals: 157.

According to Daniel (1983, THE BOOK OF INDIAN REPTILES), this species is distributed in peninsular India excluding the Ganges valley, west of Patna, eastwards to Burma and Sri Lanka. It is thus worth noting that this snake is present in the southern part of Rajasthan State.

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25. A NEW ALTITUDINAL AND RANGE RECORD FOR THE COPPER FLASH BUTTERFLY *RAPALA PHERETIMUS* HEWITSON (LYCAENIDAE)

The butterfly *Rapala pheretimus* Hewitson (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae) has been recorded east of Sikkim (Evans 1932, Wynter-Blyth 1957) to Malaya, Sumatra and Borneo (Lewis 1973). Bailey (1951) observes that he obtained a few in the (Kathmandu) Valley, between June and October; Devighat 1,500 feet (450 m) 25 October 1935 and a specimen brought in from the north (of Kathmandu) Dendrawati, 18 May 1935.

Thirteen specimens (12 males, 1 female, FW expanse 1.7 to 1.9 cm) were taken between April 21, 1994 and April 30, 1994 in the Bhimtal valley in Nainital District, Kumaon, U.P. at an elevation of c. 1500 m and two males were taken near Kaladhungi in the same district at an elevation of c. 500 m on May 2, 1994.

This represents a westward extension of approximately 500 km to the known range of this butterfly.

Hannington (1910) did not obtain this butterfly in Kumaon, although he collected in the same area and during the same season. Besides, my late father, Fred Smetacek Sr., who collected butterflies in this area for over thirty years from 1949, did not record this butterfly.

This group of butterflies is not known to migrate. It therefore seems that the specimens taken belong to a recently established colony in Bhimtal and in Kaladhungi.

These butterflies are fond of flowers, particularly of edible Chestnut (*Castanea* sp.), which they visit during the morning hours. Several males and the female were taken at these trees. The remaining males were taken basking on prominent leaves up to 10 m above the ground and patrolling their "beats" in the afternoon hours. The specimens from near Kaladhungi were taken in a damp nullah in shady sal (*Shorea robusta*) forest, where others were seen sitting briefly on the tops of bushes and saplings in the shade, but not taking up beats.

Of the above specimens, thirteen are in the collection of the National Museum of Natural History in New Delhi. The remainder are in the author's collection.

December 6, 1994 PETER SMETACEK
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26. NEW RECORD OF A CONCHOSTRACAN (CRUSTACEA: BRANCHIOPODA) FROM MAHARASHTRA STATE

During the survey of water bodies of Pune area, two hitherto unnoticed, interesting crustacean specimens were obtained on 26th July, 1993 in a small temporary rainwater pool on Kirkee road, behind the University of Poona. There is a more or less permanent water body in the form of an old stone quarry nearby. Examination of these specimens revealed that they belong to subclass Conchostraca (the so called clam shrimps) and the species turned out to be *Leptestheriella maduraensis* Nayar and Nair.

Perusal of the available literature showed that there is no record of this species from Pune District and even Maharashtra State.

The species *L. maduraensis* was first described by Nayar and Nair on the basis of specimens collected from a quarry pool at Narasingapatti near Madurai, Tamil Nadu, in November 1965. The description given by Nayar and Nair (1968) agrees well with our specimens but the length is slightly more, telson is

narrow with 34 unequal spines and furcal claw has 20 spines. The other closely related species is *L. inermis* Bernard, from which *L. maduraensis* can be distinguished by the presence of spines and setae on the dorsal armature of the body segments. Both the specimens are deposited in WRS, ZSI, Pune.

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27. ON *SIDA CRYSTALLINA* (O.F. MULLER, 1776) AND *ACROPERUS HARPAE* (BAIRD, 1834) (CRUSTACEA: CLADOCERA) FROM TRIPURA STATE

(With eight text-figures)

The survey of the wetlands of Tripura yielded two new cladoceran records, *Sida crystallina* (O.F. Muller, 1776) of the family Sidae and *Acroperus*

harpae (Baird, 1834) of the family Chydoridae. Both the species were first recorded in India from Kashmir by Brehm (1936) and then from Assam and Shillong